

Comment (Case 3682) – Support for the proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes of the work ‘The White-cheeked Geese’ by Harold C. Hanson
(Case 3682; see BZN 72: 209–216 [Case]; 311–313)

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<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:CF04EAA5-22FD-41C2-BFB3-7000351B1F7F>

I am a member of the Working Group on Avian Nomenclature (WGAN) and I am writing to lend my full support to the recent Case 3682 (Banks et al., 2015) that seeks the suppression of numerous scientific names of geese proposed in a work by Dr Harold Hanson.

The Commission frequently deals with cases put forth by nomenclatural practitioners from a particular animal group (e.g. reptiles) who have become disenchanted with prolific colleagues who hastily publish works containing numerous novel names, often pre-empting the more comprehensive research of other taxonomists. In such cases, the Commission faces the difficult decision of whether the indignation of a substantial part of the community warrants blacklisting names that may be nomenclaturally available.

It is important for me to point out to the Commission that Case 3682 is not one of those cases. In this case, there is absolutely no doubt on the part of anybody within WGAN and the extended community that the names published by Hanson are nomenclatural rubbish. Most of these names refer to taxonomic nonentities and are entirely based on slight individual variation. While this may be a taxonomic (not a nomenclatural) problem, the nomenclatural catastrophe arises when one considers that many of these Hanson names cannot be attributed to type specimens and/or proper type localities, making them essentially useless not only in a taxonomic sense but also in a nomenclatural sense.

Reference

- Banks, R.C., LeCroy, M. & Schodde, R.** 2015. Case 3682. The work ‘The White-cheeked Geese: *Branta canadensis*, *B. maxima*, *B. ‘lawrensis’*, *B. hutchinsii*, *B. leucopareia*, and *B. minima*. Taxonomy, ecophysiological relationships, biogeography, and evolutionary considerations, Volume 1, Eastern taxa; Volume 2, Western taxa, biogeography, and evolutionary considerations’ by Harold C. Hanson: proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **72**(3): 209–216.